

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 and 15-30 were previously pending in the application. By the Amendment, Claims 1 is currently amended, new Claims 31 - 33 have been added, Claims 20 and 25-30 have been canceled, and Claims 2-12, 15 - 19 and 21 - 24 remain unchanged.

The claims stand rejected under the cited prior art of record. Specifically, Claims 1-10 and 15-23 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Young et al. (US 4444821) in view of Schmidberger (DE 1,004,207). In addition, Claims 11 and 12 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Young et al. in view of Schmidberger and further in view of Buchser (US 4715512). Claim 24 is rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Young et al. in view of Schmidberger and further in view of Horvay (US 3006158).

Independent Claim 1 recites a heat insulated wall, comprising a connecting profile, an evacuable heat insulating material, two outer covering layers disposed at a distance from one another, said two outer covering layers connected to said connecting profile running along said contours with a vacuum-tight seal, said evacuable heat insulating material being disposed within intermediate space, at least one of said two outer covering layers having an aperture formed therein, a tube section including two end sections, at least one of said two end sections having a circumferentially positioned flange-shaped expanded and flattened region, and said at least one flange-shaped expanded and flattened region having an end surface facing away from said tube section and being welded to said at least one of said two outer covering layers at said aperture with a vacuum-tight seal, wherein a circular *weld seam is formed around said aperture* to connect at least one of said two outer covering layers to said flange-shaped expanded and flattened region.

None of the cited references teach a weld seam which is formed around an aperture to connect at least one of two outer covering layers to a flange-shaped expanded and flattened region. For example, Schmidberger discloses a refrigerator

housing having two walls (10, 12). A spacing piece (30) is connected to the walls (10, 12). In Schmidberger, the walls (10, 12) and spacing piece (30) are made from a thermoplastic material. While Schmidberger discloses that the tubular spacers 30 are welded to the walls 10 and 12 by means of flanges, there is no teaching or suggestion that this weld forms a seam *around* an aperture in the walls 10 and 12.

For these and other reasons, the cited references, either alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest the subject matter defined by independent Claim 1. Therefore, Claim 1 is allowable. Claims 2-12 and 15-17 depend from Claim 1 and are allowable for the same reasons and also because they recite additional patentable subject matter.

Claim 18 recites a heat insulated wall comprising a first vacuum-tight seal connecting a first flange to a first inner side and *encircling* a first aperture, and a second vacuum-tight seal connecting a second flange to the second inner side and *encircling* a second aperture. None of the cited references teach a first vacuum-tight seal connecting a first flange to a first inner side and *encircling* a first aperture. For example, while Schmidberger discloses tubular spacers 30 which are welded to walls 10 and 12 by means of flanges, there is no teaching or suggestion that this weld forms a *vacuum-tight seal* which connects a first flange to a first inner side and *encircles* a first aperture. Since Schmidberger only show a side view of the tubular spacers 30, it is impossible to know whether or not the weld actually *encircles* an aperture.

For these and other reasons, the cited references, either alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest the subject matter defined by independent Claim 18. Therefore, Claim 18 is allowable. Claims 19, and 21-24 depend from Claim 18 and are allowable for the same reasons and also because they recite additional patentable subject matter

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, entry of the present Amendment and allowance of Claims 1-12, 15-19, 21 - 24 and 31-33 are respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this amendment, the Examiner is requested to contact the

undersigned. If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition for extension is herewith made.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Craig J. Loest", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Craig J. Loest
Registration No. 48,557
August 9, 2006

BSH Home Appliances Corp.
100 Bosch Blvd
New Bern, NC 28562
Phone: 252-672-7930
Fax: 714-845-2807
craig.loest@bshg.com